



# Restoration of Rare and Declining Habitat - CP25 Tallgrass Prairie Conservation Plan (ver 3/00)

## Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Landowner \_\_\_\_\_

### Definition

Restoring and conserving rare or declining native vegetative communities and associated wildlife species.



### Purpose

Provide habitat for rare and declining wildlife species by restoring, conserving and increasing the diversity of native plant communities.

### Where used

On landscapes which once supported the habitat to be restored and managed, including land retired from agricultural production entered in retirement programs.

### Conservation Management System

This practice usually is all that is required to meet the requirements of a Conservation Management System. There may be other resource concerns present and could require other practices to also be installed to meet program requirements. In addition other wildlife practices can be installed to enhance the wildlife benefit of the cover that will result from this practice.

### Wildlife



This practice is well suited for wildlife food and habitat. Selection of grass and forb species will affect what type of wildlife will utilize these acres. Supplementing the grass planting with

other wildlife practices or plantings may further enhance the cover.

### Planning Considerations

1. Select plant species and varieties best adapted to the climate and the soils in the field being established to permanent vegetative cover.
2. Consider the long term use, objectives and wildlife species to benefit in selection of vegetative cover species.
3. Proper management of the restored area is essential to achieve and maintain the full potential of the site for the desired habitat type.

### Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet. Additional provisions are entered on the job sketch sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide practice standard (643) Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats, and supplemental CRP guidance.

### Management

#### Considerations



On highly erodible sites it may be desirable to seed a companion crop with native grasses unless no tilling into a temporary cover crop, row crop residue cover providing at least 70% surface ground cover, or standing small grain stubble.

Clip companion crops after jointing but before heading unless otherwise directed by NRCS.

A second and subsequent clipping may be necessary when re-growth provides competition during the first year of establishment. Clipping height should be above developing seedlings. Where excessive growth has accumulated, the vegetation should be chopped rather than swathed.

Weed control is critical for the successful establishment of native grasses. Severe infestations of noxious or any competing weeds will usually require application of an appropriate herbicide. Weed control shall be accomplished by using mechanical and/or chemical control methods.

## Seeding Dates

**South of I-94** May 15 - June 15

**North of I-94** May 15 - July 1

**Statewide** Dormant Seeding after November 1

## Nutrients

Lime and fertilizer are usually not required for native grass species. However, if previous soil test history, current soil test results or the soils inherent fertility is low in phosphorus, apply 50 pounds  $P_2O_5$  per acre prior to seeding.

## Use of Pesticides

Only those pesticides which are labeled for the specific use will be recommended. University and Extension publications and specific label instructions will be used for guidance on herbicide selection and use.

## Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Control annual weeds and other competition the year of establishment, with early and timely clipping before seed heads appear, or timely application of herbicides.
2. Prevent disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season for wildlife as established by FSA.

3. After the seeding is established control all noxious weeds as identified by state and local laws, by: a) treating with chemicals per label directions, or b) spot mow before seed heads form. When possible delay use of control measures until after August 1st to protect nesting wildlife. Spot treatment on problem areas may be authorized by FSA during the primary nesting season.
4. Protect the acres from haying and grazing. Fences may need to be constructed and maintained to exclude livestock throughout all 12 months of the year.
5. Re-seed any areas that do not have adequate permanent cover.
6. Do not use the contract area for field borders, field roads, or other uses that will damage or destroy the cover.
7. Do not use the field for disposal of livestock or organic waste unless that use is authorized in the additional specifications and remarks.
8. A controlled burn may be beneficial during the establishment period of the life of the contract to remove duff build up, control invading cool season grasses, or improve plant vigor. Burning should only be done according to a burning plan carried out by properly trained and equipped people.
9. Control rodent infestations that adversely affect the perennial ground cover.
10. Use all chemicals according to label instructions.



Restoration of Declining Habitat - Specifications Sheet CP25

CP25

**Landowner**\_\_\_\_\_ **Tract Number(s)**\_\_\_\_\_ **Field Number(s)**\_\_\_\_\_

**FSA Contract Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Acres to be Seeded** \_\_\_\_\_ **Prepared By** \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

### Specific Recommendations:

**\* Note: %PLS = %Germination x %Purity. To obtain pounds of bulk seed needed per acre, use the following: (PLS lbs/ac) divided by (Germination x Purity)**

Planned Application Date\_\_\_\_\_

Companion Crop \_\_\_\_\_ Seeding Dates \_\_\_\_\_ Seedbed Preparation Method \_\_\_\_\_

## Fertilizer Recommendations

Total Acres \_\_\_\_\_ X Cost per Acre \_\_\_\_\_ = Project Cost Estimate \_\_\_\_\_ X Cost Share Rate \_\_\_\_\_ = Estimated Cost Share

Amount\_\_\_\_\_

## Additional Operation and

Maintenance

Participant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

NRCS \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Services Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

SWCD \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

An aerial view, or if needed an aerial photo of the area to be seeded to Native Grasses can be shown below. Other relevant information, such as complementary practices, and adjacent field or tract conditions including structures and crop type, and additional specifications may be included.


Additional Specifications and Notes

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